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U.S. CHURCHES UNITE

AGAINST APARTHEID

DPS 86008

WASHINGTON (DPS, Jan. 23) — Taking up the theme of "With One Voice," Episcopal representatives joined with those from over 30 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox groups in proclaiming 1986 "the year of action by U.S. churches against apartheid" and calling for comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa's policy of racial separation.

Convened by a 13-member delegation of U.S. church leaders who had attended a World Council of Churches-sponsored emergency meeting on South Africa held in Harare, Zimbabwe, the previous month (see DPS 85256), the Jan. 13 meeting was attended by the Rev. Donald Nickerson and Paul Neuhauser, representing Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning and the Executive Council's Social Responsibility in Investments Committee.

Declaring apartheid "an unmitigated evil, the product of sin and the work of the devil," the group called economic pressure "the most important hope" for its non-violent end.

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A Churches Emergency Committee on South Africa was created, to be led by national heads of denominations, which will coordinate action on three outlined economic strategies: requesting banks to make an end to apartheid a condition for reinstatement of credit to South Africa; continuing divestment and seeking support from states, cities, institutions and others; and urging selective boycotts of corporations doing business in South Africa.

In addition, participants agreed to:

- Endorse the Harare Declaration, which includes a call for the end of the state of emergency in South Africa and for the release of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, as well as for international sanctions and the prevention of extending, rolling over or renewing bank loans to South Africa or its institutions;
- Urge Congress to impose comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa until apartheid is abolished and a democratic government is established;
- Press U.S. corporations to dissociate themselves from apartheid;
- Oppose any U.S. aid to anti-government rebels in Angola, because such aid supports a South African policy of destabilization;
- Organize a day of fasting, prayer and demonstrations in support of South African blacks.

A statement issued at the close of the meeting declared, "We have heard the cries of anguish from our brothers and sisters in South Africa, and they have asked us to take this action."

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VERMONT ELECTS

SWENSON COADJUTOR

DPS 86009

BURLINGTON, Vt. (DPS, Jan. 23) -- In a special convention held early in January, the Diocese of Vermont elected the Rev. Daniel Lee Swenson as its new bishop coadjutor.

Swenson, who was born in Oklahoma City, Okla., on Feb. 2, 1928, has been rector of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness, White Bear Lake, Minn., since 1978. A 1950 graduate of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, he also did graduate studies there in 1950-52; his major field of study was English literature. His preparation for Holy Orders came through the Diocesan Tutorial Program of the Diocese of Minnesota, 1958-61. He was ordained deacon in June 1960 and priest a year later. Since then, he has done continuing education work in Church history and in various areas of pastoral care, including youth work, chemical dependencies and grief counseling.

Swenson served as assistant at St. Martin's-by-the-Lake, Minnetonka Beach, with principal responsibilities for youth ministry and Christian education, 1959-62. He was founding vicar of St. Edward's Church, Wayzata, 1962-65, and rector of St. Paul's Church, Virginia, and St. John's Church, Eveleth, Minn., a yoked parish serving mining communities, 1966-75. From 1975-78 Swenson was Dean of the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour, Faribault.

A delegate to General Convention in 1979, 1982, and 1985, Swenson chaired the House of Deputies Committee on Miscellaneous Resolutions in the latter two and served as a member of the Council of Advice to the President of the House of Deputies in 1985. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary since 1980.

On the diocesan level, Swenson has served on diocesan council and the standing committee and as examiner in Church history, as well as chairing the Commission on Ministry since 1975. He has also been active in Cursillo and in work with the diaconate.

Swenson married Sally Mason in 1951, and they have three children.

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Asked what he thought was the most important contribution he could make to the Church in the Diocese of Vermont, Swenson said, "Wherever I serve in ministry, I bring a leadership style which is rooted in the Baptismal Covenant, the Holy Eucharist and the Ordination Rite, a style which is essentially collegial and pastoral...I believe that the most important gift of the Holy Spirit that I may bring is my commitment to serve the community as one who seeks to enable shared ministry to occur."

As coadjutor, Swenson will automatically succeed as Bishop of Vermont upon the retirement of the present bishop, Robert S. Kerr, who has held the post since June of 1974.

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LATIN AMERICAN/ANGLICAN

CONGRESS TO MEET IN '87

DPS 86010

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (DPS, Jan. 23) -- After 150 years of missionary work, the first Latin American Anglican Congress will take place Nov. 12 to 18, 1987, in Santa Clara, Panama, according to an announcement from its planning committee, which met here in mid-December.

The congress is being called by the primates of the two autonomous churches in Latin America -- the Province of the Southern Cone and the Episcopal Church in Brazil -- and the president of Province IX of the Episcopal Church. Its purpose is to "share and celebrate our common life, and to promote the growth, development and mission of the Anglican Church in Latin America."

The congress will gather some 180 persons from the 28 jurisdictions in the continent and international guests. Each diocese is requested to send five delegates: a bishop, a priest and three other persons, one of whom must be a woman and another a youth.

There are 20 workshops planned for the event, with themes which include: ministry, Anglicanism, missionary strategy, ecumenism, spirituality, social context, education, pastoral concerns and communication and literature in Spanish and Portuguese.

Each day will begin with a Eucharist and Bible study. After a plenary presentation, the group will be divided in small groups for discussion and a report back to the plenary.

The congress does not have legislative power, but it is expected that its recommendations, which will be published, will have an impact on the life and work of the Anglican Communion in Latin America.

"We need to know each other better, we need to plan better our common destiny and need to unite our resources. We have come a long way, but we still have many things to accomplish," said the Rt. Rev. Olavo Ventura Luiz, acting primate of the Episcopal Church of Brazil.

The Planning committee for the event is formed by the Rt. Rev. Colin Bazley, Bishop of Chile, Chairperson, representing the Province of the Southern Cone; Luiz; and Miss Glenda McQueen, a lay woman from Panama, representing the Ninth Province of the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Onell Soto, mission information officer at the Episcopal Church Center in New York, serves as staff for the committee.

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KAFITY ELECTED HEAD
OF MID-EAST ANGLICANS

DPS 86011

LARNAKA, Cyprus (DPS, Jan. 23) — The Rt. Rev. Samir Kafity, Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, was elected to a five-year term as Bishop President by the Central Synod of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East at its meeting here in mid-January. The election took place on the first ballot.

Kafity, 52, succeeds the Rt. Rev. Hassan B. Dehqani-Tafti, Bishop of Iran, who was forced into exile after church properties were confiscated and his son and a priest were murdered. Dehqani-Tafti now lives in England, where he serves as an assistant bishop.

A lay delegate from Iran was prevented from attending the January synod here when his passport was removed as he was boarding the plane to Cyprus. His place was taken by an exiled lay leader living in England.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, one of the 27 provinces of the Anglican Communion, comprises four dioceses — Jerusalem, Cyprus and the Gulf, Egypt and North Africa, and Iran -- and covers a geographical area of more than six million square miles, stretching from Lebanon to Ethiopia and from Iran to Algeria.

The province was inaugurated in 1976 as a replacement to the Archbishopric of Jerusalem, which had been in existence for nearly 20 years. Anglican presence in the province goes back almost 150 years.

Kafity was born to an Anglican family in the port of Haifa, which is now part of the state of Israel. In 1948, as a consequence of the war, he moved with his family to Ramallah, where he studied at the American School, an educational institution sponsored the Society of Friends. He has also studied in Syria and Lebanon. He holds a theology degree from the Middle East School of Theology in Beirut.

The new Bishop President was ordained deacon in 1957 and priest the following year. After serving parishes in Jerusalem and Ramallah, he was transferred to Lebanon, where he served there as parish priest and later as archdeacon.

Kafity has a long experience in ecumenical affairs. "My first encounter with the ecumenical world came in 1961, when I attended

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a conference in Strasbourg, France, sponsored by the World Student Christian Federation," he recalls. Since then he has been active in local and international ecumenism through the Middle East Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. He also has been a member of the Anglican Consultative Council, where he has served on the standing committee.

In 1982, Kafity was elected bishop coadjutor in Jerusalem and became the 12th bishop of the diocese in 1984. His jurisdiction covers Israel, the Occupied Territories of Palestine, the Kingdom of Jordan and the republics of Syria and Lebanon. The Diocese of Jerusalem has 32 service institutions, which include schools, orphanages, hospitals, and homes for the blind, the deaf and the mentally handicapped. These institutions care for the needs of the Arab population, regardless of creed. Since 1922, the Good Friday Offering, which is taken in churches around the Anglican Communion, is designated for the work in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Kafity and his wife, Najat, have two daughters, who are studying in the United States. The couple lives in Jerusalem, where their home is part of the cathedral close which includes St. George's Cathedral, St. George's College and a hostel for pilgrims.

In a recent interview with the Rev. Onell Soto, editor of World Mission News, Kafity expressed the hope that the problems of the Middle East can be solved by peaceful means. Said he: "We must win people to the cause of love, honor each other and serve them in the name of the Living God. This witness will convince many that there is a much better way than violence and oppression."

###

EMPOWERMENT FOR AGING

CONFERENCE PLANNED

DPS 86012

WASHINGTON (DPS, Jan. 23) — The Episcopal Church is joining several major denominations and national organizations in co-sponsoring a May 9-11 national conference by the Cathedral College of the Laity, here, to further the idea that older persons can serve their communities, not just be served by them.

Sponsors of the conference, which will be held at the Crystal City Hyatt Hotel near Washington National Airport, believe that the many persons who now live into their sixties, seventies and eighties still healthy, alert and energetic have become society's greatest undeveloped resource.

Empowerment, said Cathedral College director Norene D. Martin, is the key to opening up the great reservoir of knowledge, skill, willingness to help -- and free time -- that older persons have to offer. She defines empowerment as a process of helping them see, first, that they are able to make a positive difference in their communities, and, second, showing them how it might be done.

The Cathedral College of the Laity is a five-year-old ecumenical organization which operates under the National Cathedral Foundation. It was formed to educate and train laity of all faiths for ministry. The College has worked with women, young persons and minorities to "empower" them for ministry, but its current emphasis is on older persons, whom Martin and James D. Anderson, program director for the College, call a great untapped source of "physical, emotional and spiritual vitality."

"Instead of being a group to be taken care of -- 'warehoused' -- these are persons who often have the most leisure, the deepest wisdom and the finest spiritual incentives to care for others and the society around them," Martin said. She believes that if this view were widely held, it would completely change the operation of Church and government agencies that work with the aging.

A major aim of the May conference is to persuade such groups that they should think about what it would mean for them to adopt an

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"empowerment strategy" as well as their traditional "health and welfare approach." A major obstacle is the deep-seated feeling that what older persons need is to be cared for, that they are no longer able to contribute meaningful service.

Many older persons share that view. To a great extent "empowerment" means showing them that this is not true, Anderson said. He added that other groups, such as Hispanic women or blacks, have the same problem: First, they need to see that society's view of their abilities, which they have accepted, is wrong. Then, they can begin to learn what kinds of things they can do, and how in serving they will be served.

The May 9-11 conference will be opened by Dr. Estelle Ramey of Georgetown University, a nationally known endocrinologist who advocates this new view of the aging. She will lead the morning sessions May 10.

Workshops that afternoon will be led by persons whose organizations have pioneered involvement of the aging in service. Among them will be Paul Maves, national director of the Shepherds Centers; Lydia Bragger, national head of the Gray Panthers task force, Media Watch; the Rev. Louis J. Putz, founder of the Forever Learning Institute; and Carrie B. Weaver, director of the Rural Elderly Ministry Project, which is supported by the College.

Cosponsors of the May 9-11 conference include seven denominations -- the Episcopal Church, the American Baptist Church, the Church of the Brethren, the Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.

Additional cosponsors are the Episcopal Society for Ministry on Aging, the Episcopal Church's Council for the Development of Ministry, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, the Alban Institute, the National Council on the Aging, the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, the National Caucus and Center on the Black Aging and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Registration for the conference is being handled by the Cathedral College of the Laity, Mount St. Alban, Washington, DC 20016. The cost, which does not include a hotel room, is \$200. The deadline for making hotel reservations is Apr. 9.

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APSO ANNOUNCES

1986 WORKCAMPS

DPS 86013

BLACKSBURG, Va. (DPS, Jan. 23) — What do you call 15 youths and three adults with tired muscles, joyful hearts and paint spattered bodies? This summer, at Barnes Mountain; Ky. (Diocese of Lexington); Blairsville, Ga. (Diocese of Atlanta); and Charleroi, Pa. (Diocese of Pittsburgh), they will be called APSO Youth workcamps.

A workcamp is a community project where participants work together to build strong and effective Christian community service. Sponsors say that the work done is secondary to the understanding developed by participants about self, others, economic and spiritual poverty, the ministry of service and the meaning of community, human suffering and dignity.

The camp at Barnes Mountain is scheduled for June 15-22. The group returns to a small mountain mission, St. Timothy's, to continue building a relationship with this isolated community. APSO youth and local youth will join together to do construction work on homes in the area.

July 6-13 are the dates for the Blairsville workcamp. There, the young people will assist with farm work in the mountains of northern Georgia.

The third camp will be held at Charleroi, Pa., one of the hardest hit areas in the 1985 floods. The group will help residents in rebuilding their community. Dates for this workcamp are July 20-27.

Each camp is limited to 15 young people, at least 15 years old, who have a clear understanding of why they want to take part in a workcamp experience. Commitment is a prerequisite, skills are not.

The cost of \$100 per person includes food, housing, insurance, local transportation and a share of materials to be used.

According to Cathy Wilson, APSO Youth staff, "You can expect new friends, a lot of fun and hard work, new understandings about yourself, the Church and the world, to learn new skills and develop old ones, to camp out on the floor. And everyone is expected to be involved in all aspects of the workcamp: daily worship, work, community meetings, meal preparation, clean-up and mutual respect."

###

BROWNING PRESENTS TUTU

WITH P.B. FUND DONATIONS

DPS 86014

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 23) — Shortly after arriving here to begin his term as 24th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Edmond L. Browning presented a check for \$20,064.63 to visiting Nobel Peace Laureate and Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt. Rev. Desmond Tutu, for the work of the Church in South Africa.

The money, which came through the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, had been collected as the result of a special appeal originated by the same General Convention of the Episcopal Church which elected Browning in September. An offering was taken up during Convention on behalf of the suffering people of South Africa, but donations have continued to pour in to the Fund.

Among the donations was a gift of \$164.31, alms gathered over the course of a year by the boys of El Hogar De Amor y Esperanza, a center for rehabilitating street boys in Honduras, and Instituto Tecnico St. Maria, a center for training them in the trades of carpentry, plumbing and electronics. A letter from the Rev. Robert Miller, director of El Hogar, to the Rev. Canon Samir J. Habiby, executive director of the Fund, explained that the boys "became aware through the media of the struggle of the poor in South Africa to walk and work with dignity and freedom. In many ways, children of the streets share the same struggle, for they are often described as being the refuse of modern society."

Tutu, who was in this country on a two-week tour to rally support and raise money to aid black South Africans, also participated as gift presenter and concelebrant at Browning's Service of Installation at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 11.

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PICTURE CAPTION

(86014) The Rt. Rev. Desmond Tutu (l.), Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg and 1984 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, here receives a check for \$20,064.63 from the Most Rev. Edmond L. Browning (c.), Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Canon Samir J. Habiby (r.), executive director of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, which collected the donations in response to a call from last September's General Convention, looks on.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

PLEASE NOTE:

The photos from the Presiding Bishop's installation (DPS 86004) should be credited to Broffman/Worth.

POSITIONS OPEN

The Episcopal Church Center is accepting applications to fill the following posts:

Editor. This position is part of the Communication Unit and reports to the Publications Director. It will work primarily in the areas of editing, rewriting, copy editing and original writing. This position requires someone with experience in copy editing, proofreading, copy checking, writing and rewriting, as well as an understanding of basic art and production techniques. Candidates must be able to write in a clear style of educational and informational material, and a knowledge of the structure and program of the Episcopal Church is preferred. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28, 1986.

Staff Officer for Mission Planning. This position will serve as resource staff for the Mission Planning Group approved by the Executive Council to assist in its long-range planning. The position is part of the Stewardship Unit and reports to the Executive for Stewardship. It will work primarily in the gathering of background material and information as well as analyzing the latest data from interim bodies, governmental and private sectors to enable the Episcopal Church to do strategic long-range planning for mission. Editorial and writing skills are also required for the preparation of materials publicizing mission opportunities. Candidates must be active members of the Episcopal Church and should have a comprehensive knowledge of its structures and polity. Particular emphasis will be placed on the working relationships among dioceses and between dioceses and the Episcopal Church Center and companion relationships world-wide. Candidates should be able to move easily between differing constituencies. Background in staff work at the diocesan level and knowledge of Spanish are preferred. Candidates must be free to travel. The deadline for applications is March 10, 1986.

Candidates should submit a resume and the names and addresses of three professional references to: Barbara Quinn, Personnel Office, Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

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